

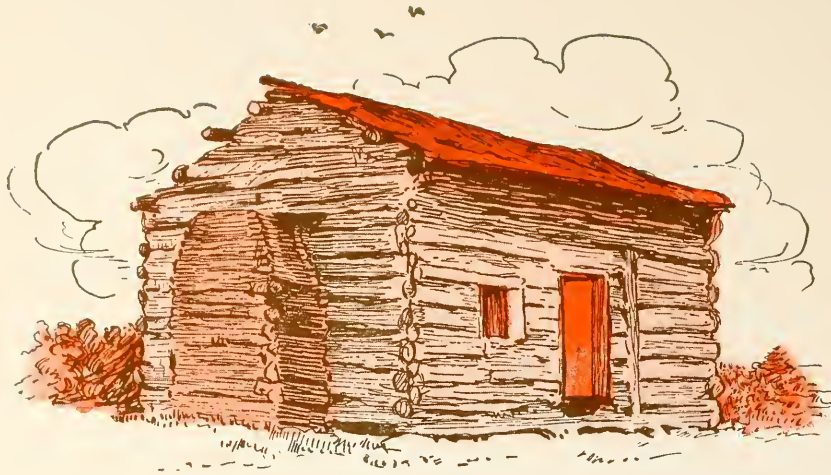
Abraham Lincoln



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Abraham Lincoln

CHILDREN, look at this picture of a log cabin. How different it is from the pretty cosy homes you live in! This one stood in a great forest in Kentucky. It might have been rather nice in the summer time, but oh, how cold in the winter, when the wind blew the rain and the snow between the logs.

One winter day, a baby boy was born in this



Lincoln Studying by the Fire-light

poor little house. His name was Abraham Lincoln and his birthday was February 12, 1809. His mother kept him warm in her arms, or tucked him snugly into the trundle bed beside his little sister Sarah, under a bearskin blanket.



They wore garments and moccasins made of deer skins

When he was older, he had clothes and moccasins made of deerskin and such a funny cap. It was made of a 'coon skin with the tail hanging down his back.

Abe soon learned to cut down trees, but he never killed any of the wild things living in the woods. He could not bear to hurt any thing.

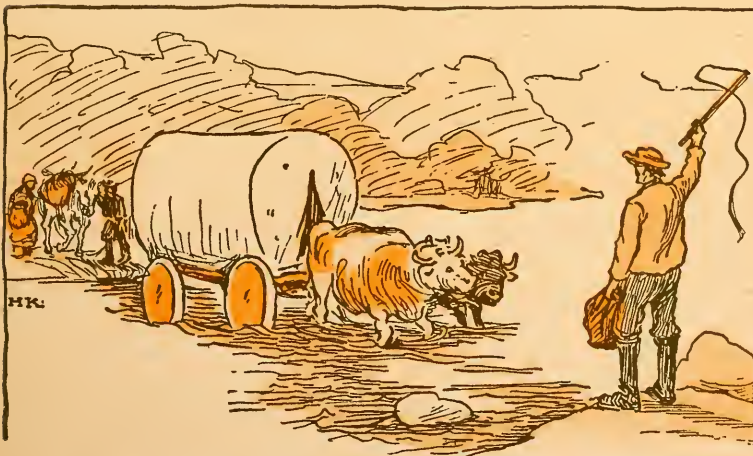
When Abe was seven years old they moved to Indiana to a place where no white men had

ever lived before. It was a long journey through the woods. Not even a log house was ready for them to live in. Strong little Abe could swing his axe like a man and he helped his father cut down small trees and make a shelter of poles. It had no floor and was open on one side where they built a fire. The bears in the forest had a warmer home than they.

Before Abe's ninth birthday, his mother died, telling the sobbing little boy to be good and love God. You have never known anyone as poor

and uncomfortable as they were then.

But a good step-mother came. She had their father make the house



He helped his father move



Lincoln, the Young Lawyer

He saw slaves being sold
in New Orleans.



warm with a floor and a door and windows. She dearly loved lonely, sad little Abe. There were no schools, but sometimes a teacher

would come for awhile and his mother always sent Abe to him. In all his life, he went to school less than a year.

They had no books or papers, but Abe read everything he could find. He often walked miles through the forest to borrow a book. He worked hard all day. Sometimes he chopped down trees and split them into fence rails. At night, when the work was done, he sat down by the fire-light where he read or worked sums on a



smooth board. His pencil was a piece of charcoal.

His friends liked him because he was full of fun. He told them what he read

and was always kind.

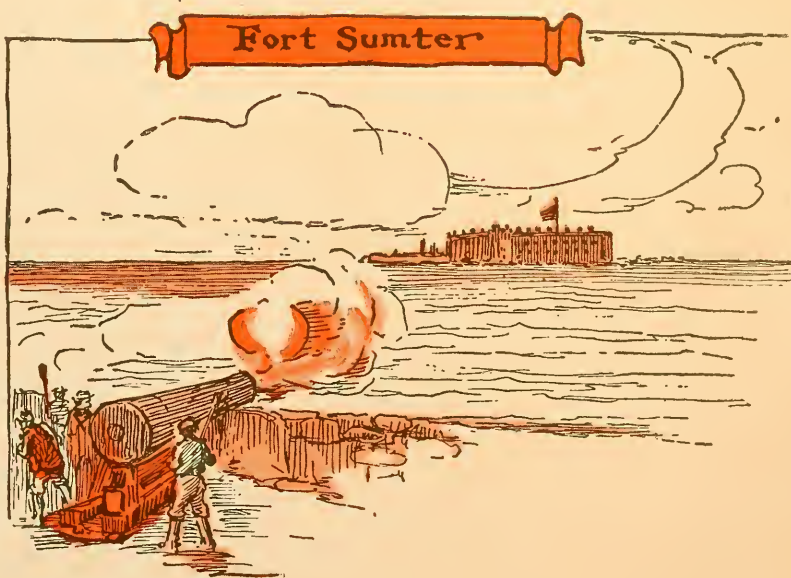
He was nearly twenty-one when his father thought he would go to Illinois to live. Abe helped him move. He drove the ox-wagon over the rough mud roads and through the streams. He built his step-mother the nicest log cabin he could. He cut down the trees and planted corn and made a fine rail fence around the little farm. Then he left home to work for himself.

A man hired him to take a flatboat to New

Orleans. There he saw a poor negro girl sold as a slave. He felt so very sorry that he wished he could stop slavery forever.

He worked hard at anything he could find to do. In his spare time he read and studied. After awhile he became a lawyer and was sent to Congress where the laws of the country are made. The Lincoln family lived two winters in Washington. Abraham was now married and had a little boy named Robert.

S e v e r a l
years went by.
A b r a h a m
Lincoln could
never forget the
injustice to the
poor colored





slaves of the South. He said, "This Nation cannot endure half free and half slave. The government must end slavery." People began to think about what he said, and

so many thought his opinion correct, that the next time the people of the country elected a president, he was the man.

He left his home in Springfield and went again to Washington. There were two more little boys then, Willie and Tad.





Lincoln Made President



Of course, as soon as he became president, Lincoln felt he had to free the slaves. The people of the South, who needed them, were very angry, and said they would have a Nation of their own. They called themselves Confederates.

This started the Civil War. How sad Abraham Lincoln was to see the whole country thrown into terrible bloodshed. That the Nation might endure, this was necessary, and so for four long years the war lasted. When the Northern armies had won and the slaves were set free, there was peace once again.

When the war began, all battleships were built of wood. The Confederates covered the Merrimac with iron and sunk two Union ships. A Northern ship builder made a queer little iron boat, full of guns, and called it the Monitor. These two ships had a great battle. Of course, the Monitor won, and since then battleships are made of steel and iron.

Lincoln loved his two little boys and played with them whenever he could. He liked their



Fight between
the Merrimac and the Monitor



Lincoln Delivering His Gettysburg Address

ponies and dogs and goats and kittens. Some people thought he was homely, but his face really was beautiful with goodness and love.

Abraham Lincoln had just been made president for the second time when he was shot, while attending a theatre, on April 15, 1865. He was carried back to the city of Springfield, Illinois, and buried with great honors. A big beautiful monument marks his grave.



The Lincoln Monument
at Springfield, Illinois

